(b) The following companies have started production:—

Name of the Company	Block Allotted
M/s West Bengal State Elecricity Board (Replaced by M/s Durgapur Power Limited) and M/s West Bengal Power Development Corporation jointly through joint venture company *viz* M/s Bengal Emta Mining Ltd.	Tara (East) & Tara (West)
M/s Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Gare Palma IV/I
M/s Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation through their venture company namely, Integrated Coal Mining Ltd.	Sarisatolli
M/s Indian Aluminum Company Ltd.	Talabira-I
M/s BLA Industries Ltd.	Gotitoria (East) & Gotitoria (West)
M/s Monnet Ispat Ltd.	Gare Palma IV/5

As per Ministry of coal circular dated 01.03.1999 coal produced from captive block if rendered surplus or in excess to the requirement due to any contingency of *force majeure* situation is allowed to be sold to another approved end user with prior approval of the Government.

(c) A total of 28,34,000 metric tonnes of rejects, slurry, jhama, middlings and surplus coal has been allowed to be sold to private companies during the year 2003 to 2005.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) and (c) above.

Coal Wage Agreement for Singareni Collieries

1659. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Coal Wage Agreement VII has been finalized for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.;

(b) whether the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry have issued any directions for giving interim relief @ 15 per cent of the basic wages;

(c) if so, the date from which the interim relief has been released; and

(d) the reasons for delay in finalizing National Coal Wage Agreement VII?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In its first meeting held at Coal India Ltd. Headquarters, Kolkata, Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VII (JBCI-VII) decided that all coal employees will be paid Interim Relief at the rate of 15 per cent of basic pay as on 01-01-2004 with effect from January, 2004. The same has been implemented in Singareni Collieries Company Limited also with effect from 01.01.2004.

(b) Constitution of JBCCII-VII was initially withheld, as arrears arising out of NCWA-VI could not be fully paid due to financial constraints. Last instalment of arrear was paid by CIL in July, 2002. Thereafter, in the meeting taken by the then Minister and trade unions, it was decided that private coal companies should also be party to wage negotiations in Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI) but they refused to participate in wage negotiations. Therefore there was delay in constitution of JBCCI-VII, and it could be constituted only in July, 2003. The first meeting was held on 12-1-2004 and 15% Interim Relief was agreed to be paid *w.e.f.* 1-1-2004.

During negotiations, agreement could not be reached on certain issues like compassionate appointment, attendance bonus, 100 per cent D.A. neutralization etc. Therefore a Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence was constituted on 16-11-2004 to look into the larger issues concerning the ongoing wage negotiation in best interest of industry, labour and national economy. GoN directed Minister of State for Coal & Mines to hold separate discussions with the Unions. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 3-5-2005 in which a broad consensus was reached. Subsequently, with the approval of GoM, the National Coal Wage Agreement V-ll was signed on 15-7-2005.

Damage to shovel machines

†1660. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to negligence of Deputy Chief General Manager and concerned Mine Officer in Western Section of Jayant Project in N.C.L. Singrauli, a new P & H-8 shovel machine worth Rs. 8 crore has perished completely;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.